

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2011

Statement by the President on the Intent to Recognize Southern Sudan

On behalf of the people of the United States, I congratulate the people of Southern Sudan for a successful and inspiring referendum in which an overwhelmingly majority of voters chose independence. I am therefore pleased to announce the intention of the United States to formally recognize Southern Sudan as a sovereign, independent state in July 2011.

After decades of conflict, the images of millions of southern Sudanese voters deciding their own future was an inspiration to the world and another step forward in Africa's long journey toward justice and democracy. Now, all parties have a responsibility to ensure that this historic moment of promise becomes a moment of lasting progress. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement must be fully implemented and outstanding disputes must be resolved peacefully. At the same time, there must be an end to attacks on civilians in Darfur and a definitive end to that conflict.

As I pledged in September when addressing Sudanese leaders, the United States will continue to support the aspirations of all Sudanese — north and south, east and west. We will work with the governments of Sudan and Southern Sudan to ensure a smooth and peaceful transition to independence. For those who meet all of their obligations, there is a path to greater prosperity and normal relations with the United States, including examining Sudan's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. And while the road ahead will be difficult, those who seek a future of dignity and peace can be assured that they will have a steady partner and friend in the United States.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON

Congratulating Sudan on the Results of the Southern Sudan Referendum

The United States congratulates the Government of Sudan on the announcement of the Southern Sudan referendum results. We congratulate northern and southern leaders for facilitating a peaceful and orderly vote, and now that the people of Southern Sudan have made this compelling statement, we commend the Government of Sudan for accepting its outcome.

We look forward to working with southern leaders as they undertake the tremendous amount of work to prepare for independence in July and ensure the creation of two viable states living alongside each other in peace. The Government of Southern Sudan must launch a process of inclusive governance and take steps to improve good governance and service delivery, as well as to adopt long-term security and economic arrangements with the North.

In line with the bilateral discussions held between the United States and the Government of Sudan, and in recognition of the success of the Southern Sudan referendum as a critical milestone of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the United States is initiating the process of withdrawing Sudan's State Sponsor of Terrorism designation, the first step of which is initiating a review of that designation. Removal of the State Sponsor of Terrorism designation will take place if and when Sudan meets all criteria spelled out in U.S. law, including not supporting international terrorism for the preceding six months and providing assurance it will not support such acts in the future, and fully implements the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including reaching a political solution on Abyei and key post-referendum arrangements.

We urge both northern and southern leaders to continue to work together toward full implementation of the CPA, and urge them to work expediently to reach agreement on the post-referendum arrangements that will define their future and lead to a mutually beneficial relationship.

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United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

WASHINGTON, DC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 7, 2011
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Chairman Kerry Welcomes Referendum Results And Recognition In Sudan

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry (D-MA), who made three trips to Sudan in recent months, said North and South Sudan passed two major milestones today with the certification of referendum results on independence for the South and the North's recognition of the outcome. He also said the time has come to initiate a review of Sudan's status as a state sponsor of terrorism as a result of Khartoum's recognition of the referendum. Chairman Kerry issued the following statement:

"This is a historic day for the people of South Sudan. Their determination to create an independent country has been certified by an overwhelming margin. The government in Khartoum also took an important step by announcing it has accepted the outcome of the voting.

"All of the people of Sudan can take pride in the peaceful beginning of a new country, and President Obama and Special Envoy Scott Gration can share in that pride. We must remember that there is much to be accomplished in terms of cooperation between these two independent but interconnected countries in the months before South Sudan is officially independent in July.

"In October, I took a letter to Sudan from President Obama that said when the referendum was complete and the results were recognized by the North, the United States would start the review process to rescind Sudan's status as a state sponsor of terrorism. Now that Sudan has taken these important steps, we should begin this review. Its results will be dictated by Sudanese actions and the requirements of U.S. law, but I am extremely hopeful that just as North and South Sudan have embarked on a new relationship, Khartoum is attempting to redefine its relationship with the United States and the rest of the international community.

"A stable, peaceful, and economically viable North Sudan is essential for a stable, peaceful, and prosperous South Sudan and both are very much in America's interests. Darfur is and will remain central to the U.S. policy agenda and to future U.S.-Sudanese relations. Our goal is peace throughout the region."

In January, Chairman Kerry traveled to Sudan to observe the referendum. During the visit, he met with Sudanese officials in Juba and Khartoum to encourage a peaceful referendum process and a broader agreement between the North and South that would guide Sudan through the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). He also traveled to Darfur to meet with the African Union/United Nations hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and Darfuris recently displaced by violence.

In October and November 2010, Kerry traveled twice to Juba and Khartoum to help move the peace process forward at the Obama administration's request. On his trip in early November,

Kerry conveyed a proposal from the Obama administration to the governments in Khartoum and Juba, which outlined a roadmap for addressing key bilateral issues contingent on the implementation of the CPA and improvements in Darfur.

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